

At MPW, safety is a cornerstone of our commitment to our customers, our employees and those working in the community. While power lines help us run our lives and businesses, they can also be dangerous. That's why we urge anyone working outdoors to follow our **Safety 6** rules. These guidelines will help you return from work injury-free, prevent property damage and maybe even save a life.



Always follow the **Safety 6** rules when working near power lines



1 Work at a safe distance



This is the most important rule: work at a safe distance from power lines. If you are unsure of the voltage of a powerline in MPW’s service area, stay at least 20 feet away to ensure your safety.

See the chart below for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines – and make sure to keep yourself and anything you are touching the minimum distance from power lines.

Voltage (kV)	Minimum Clearing Distance (feet)
0 – 50kV	10 feet
50kV – 200kV	15 feet
200kV – 350kV	20 feet
350kV – 500kV	25 feet
500kV – 750kV	35 feet
750kV – 1,000kV	45 feet
over 1,000kV	Distance established by the power line owner/operator or qualified, registered professional engineer

When working with a crane, if any part gets closer than the trigger distance (20 feet), comply with Option 1, 2 or 3 below:

Option 1: Confirm from the utility company that the lines have been de-energized and are visibly grounded at the worksite.

Option 2: Ensure that no part of a load or line gets closer than 20 feet by implementing the encroachment prevention measures.

Option 3: Maintain distances in the table above (20-foot rule). Employer must determine the line’s voltage by asking the utility owner. If any part could get closer than the distances listed in the above table while operating, implement encroachment prevention measures to ensure clearing distance compliance.

2 Stay calm, stay away



Should your equipment contact a power line, call 911. In addition:

- **If you are not in danger from fire or from being struck by a power line:**
 - Stay where you are and do not get off the equipment.
 - Move the equipment away from the power line, if possible.
 - Warn others not to approach the equipment.
- **If you are in danger and must get off the equipment:**
 - Jump away from the equipment and land with both feet together. No part of your body should touch the equipment and the ground at the same time.
 - Shuffle away from the equipment with your feet together to reduce the risk of electric shock, until you are as far away as possible.
- **If a fellow worker is in danger:**
 - Stay away.
 - Warn fellow workers to stay away.
 - Call 911.

3 Ladders and lines don’t mix



Before beginning work outdoors, look up and note the location of power lines. You can be seriously hurt or killed if the object you are holding or standing on contacts a power line.

- Keep yourself and anything you are touching a minimum of 10 feet from power lines, depending on the voltage of the line. This includes toys, tools, ladders and other high-reach equipment – metallic or non-metallic.

4 Call 811 before you dig



- Call 811 at least two full business days before digging to have underground utility lines marked. It’s free and it’s required by law.
- Visit lowaonecall.com for more information.

5 Look up and live



Trees conduct electricity, so take extra caution when working with trees around overhead power lines.

- Look for power lines when putting up scaffolding, framing a building, painting, pruning or moving trees.
- Crane and derrick operators should take extra caution and have additional responsibilities mandated by OSHA.
- Before transporting large objects, identify a safe route that avoids power lines, or call your local utility

6 Downed lines can be deadly



Always assume a downed power line is energized and stay as far away as possible.

- If you see a downed power line, call 911.

For more information, contact MPW at **(563) 263-2631** or visit www.mpw.org.